

New Mexico – Friday, Representatives Harry Teague (NM-02) and Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23) urged their colleagues in the House of Representatives to take swift action in passing the border security funding bill approved by the Senate yesterday. The bill, which provides \$600 million to bolster border security efforts along the US-Mexico border, received unanimous support in the Senate.

“With the Senate finally acting on my border security surge, which the House has now passed twice, we are poised to put boots on the ground, build more forward operating bases so our agents can spend their time protecting the border instead of commuting to it, and provide the critical support that our country needs to ensure that the violence does not cross in to our country,” said Congressman Harry Teague, Vice Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus. “The time for partisan politics has run out. I urge my colleagues to act quickly once more to pass this border security funding surge when the House reconvenes on Tuesday.”

“I am pleased the Senate has voted to fund critical border security needs,” said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. “As a Texas Member representing nearly 800 miles of border, I now call on my colleagues in the House to pass this new and fully funded version of the bill so that these dollars can begin paying for new personnel, upgraded technology, more investigative units and resources to catch and prosecute drug traffickers.”

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The funding provides additional to support to current border patrol activities, including additional Border Patrol agents and other border enforcement officials, additional resources for local law enforcement agencies located near the border, new forward operating bases for the Border Patrol, and more law enforcement resources to fight drug smuggling and the spillover of drug violence into the U.S., without adding to the deficit.

To pay for these enhancements to border security, the Senate bill raises fees on H-1B visas used to hire temporary skilled workers. The higher fees will be imposed on companies who have more than 50 percent of their employees on H-1B visas without affecting U.S. technology companies.

The House of Representatives originally passed a \$701 million dollar border security supplemental funding surge as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010, before it was eliminated from the legislation by the Senate. Last week, Teague and Rodriguez co-sponsored a standalone bill, passed by the House, that mirrored the funding originally included in the Supplemental Appropriations Act. Following the Senate's changes to the legislation, the House must now vote on the most recent version of the bill before it is signed in to law.

### **The bill would provide:**

- \$39 million for Customs and Border Protection to keep the current levels of officers
- \$32 million to deploy unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance drones
- \$24 million for FBI agents along the border
- \$14 million for communication equipment for new officers
- \$10 million for investigators to stop corruption in the Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection
- \$7 million for border processing of apprehended drug dealers and human traffickers
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